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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda.
5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015.
6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, one or more Vice-Chairs and such other officers as may be required.

In accordance with Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its forty-seventh session, held the first meeting of its forty-

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eighth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission. The Commission elected Bénédicte Frankinet (Belgium) as Chair and Mesbah Ansari Dogaheh (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chair. At the second meeting of its forty-eighth session, to be held on 13 April 2015, the Commission will elect the Vice-Chairs nominated by the groups of African States, Eastern European States and Latin American and Caribbean States.

The membership of the Commission at its forty-eighth session is provided in the annex.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its forty-seventh session, the Council, in its decision 2014/239 (see A/69/3, chap. VIII, sect. I), approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

At its thirtieth session, the Commission decided to authorize its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis (see E/1997/25, para. 52). At its thirty-ninth session, in its resolution 2006/1 (see E/2006/25, chap. I.B), the Commission requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for its annual sessions. The Commission has before it the report of the Bureau on its intersessional meetings.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2015/1)

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2015/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2015/L.1)

3. Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

In its resolution 49/128, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

In the terms of reference of the Commission (see E/1995/27, annex I, sect. I.A), which were endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55, the Commission was called upon to adopt a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year programme. That work programme would, inter alia, provide a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In its report on its twenty-eighth session, of which the Council took note in its decision 1995/236, the Commission called for the preparation of annual reports on a selected topic of the Programme of Action (see E/1995/27, annex I, sect. III).

At its twenty-first special session, the General Assembly, in its resolution S-21/2, adopted the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

In its decision 2013/101 (see E/2013/25, chap. I.B), the Commission decided that the special theme for its forty-eighth session in 2015 should be "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2015/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2015/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2015/5)

4. General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

The Commission has concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate on population matters relating to the theme of its forty-eighth session. Under this item, Governments would report on national experiences in meeting the goals and objectives set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as they relate to the integration of population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda.

5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015

At its forty-first session, the Commission heard an address by the President of the Economic and Social Council on the various ways in which the Commission might contribute to the new mandates of the Council, in particular the annual ministerial review (see E/2008/25, chap. V). In response, the Commission added this item to its annual agenda. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission will discuss the contributions it could make to the annual ministerial review that the Council will conduct in 2015 on the theme "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what it will take". The Bureau of the Commission decided to invite the President of the Council to address the Commission under this item in order to launch a discussion on the relevance of population trends to the theme of the 2015 annual ministerial review and, more broadly, on the contribution of the Commission to the work of the Council.

6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission suggested that the work programme in the field of population should continue, inter alia, to give high priority to the

monitoring of population trends and policies and include the biennial preparation of estimates and projections of global, national, urban, rural and city populations; the conduct of studies on population and related development policies; the preparation of studies on interactions of population change with other development processes; the conduct of analyses of mortality; contribution to and coordination of in-depth studies on fertility, nuptiality and reproductive rights and health, including family planning; the conduct of studies to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of internal migration and international migration; increasing public awareness of and information exchange on population and development issues; making the necessary arrangements for coordinating the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action; and the provision of technical cooperation support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition in the light of the economic and social problems that those countries faced at that time (see E/1995/27, annex II). The Commission reaffirmed the content of the work programme at its twenty-ninth session (Commission resolution 1996/1, see E/1996/25, chap. I.C).

At its thirtieth session, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing the basic work of the Population Division of the Secretariat on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections; basic population trends and issues, including fertility, mortality, migration and patterns of rural and urban population change; the evolution of population policies; and understanding of the links between population and development (Commission resolution 1997/3, see E/1997/25, chap. I.C). At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of the work of the Population Division in providing the United Nations system and the international community with comprehensive and scientifically sound inputs for the analysis of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population and development set in the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, especially the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (Commission resolution 2004/1, see E/2004/25, chap. I.B). At the same session, the Commission further emphasized that the Population Division should continue its basic work on population estimates and projections; patterns of rural and urban population change; the analysis of international migration; the implications of the changing age structure of the population for development; the increasing diversity of fertility and mortality levels and trends; the interrelations among population, resources, the environment and development; and the evolution of population policies, applying a gender perspective in this regard (Commission resolution 2004/1).

As indicated in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 7)), the objective of the Organization under the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the international development agenda.

Pursuant to paragraph 7.11 of the proposed strategic framework, the Population Division is the entity responsible for the subprogramme on population, the mandated of which is to be achieved by: (a) providing substantive support to United Nations bodies, especially the Commission, assessing progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the achievement of the internationally agreed

development goals, and following up on the decision of the General Assembly to extend the Programme of Action beyond 2014; (b) facilitating the discussion of key or emerging population issues by experts or government representatives; (c) preparing comprehensive studies on population issues and trends relating to fertility, family planning, mortality, international and internal migration, urbanization, population growth, population ageing, population projections, population policy and population in relation to development; (d) disseminating population information and policy-relevant findings in the area of population through the Population Division websites; and (e) supporting capacity development to address population issues through workshops or the dissemination of technical material, such as manuals and software, in collaboration with other subprogrammes and entities in related areas.

The Commission has before it for consideration the draft programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the biennium 2016-2017. The Commission is invited to review the draft and provide comments.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2015/6)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the draft programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the for the biennium 2016-2017 (E/CN.9/2015/CRP.1)

7. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission has before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Council resolutions 1979/41 and 1981/83 on the control and limitation of documentation. In addition, the Commission is reminded that the Council, in paragraph 1 (j) of its resolution 1982/50 on the revitalization of the Council, urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the provisions of the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the annex to Council resolution 1982/50, in which the Secretary-General recommended that: (a) the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly be streamlined in order to enable the subsidiary bodies to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; (b) the Council and the Assembly continue to review the provisional agendas for their subsidiary bodies,

together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and (c) in doing so, the Council and the Assembly also take into account the need for the consolidation of items and documentation for their subsidiary machinery.

Furthermore, in its resolution 1981/83, the Council instructed its subsidiary bodies to take urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and the cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and the Assembly.

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General: (a) to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources; and (b) to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2015/L.2)

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit a report to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-eighth session (2015)

(44 members; four-year term)

	Term expires at close of session in the year
Algeria	2015
Argentina	2018
Bangladesh	2017
Belgium	2017
Benin	2018
Brazil	2017
Chad	2017
China	2018
Denmark	2017
Dominican Republic	2018
Ecuador	2015
Egypt	2016
El Salvador	2015
Gabon	2015
Georgia	2015
Germany	2018
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2015
Japan	2016
Liberia	2018
Madagascar	2017
Malaysia	2018
Mexico	2017
Mongolia	2018
Netherlands	2017
Nigeria	2017
Norway	2016
Oman	2017
Pakistan	2018
Peru	2018
Portugal	2015
Republic of Moldova	2016
Romania	2017
Russian Federation	2018
Serbia	2018
South Africa	2018

	Term expires at close of session in the year
Spain	2016
Switzerland	2017
Turkmenistan	2015
Uganda	2016
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2018
United Republic of Tanzania	2016
United States of America	2018
Uruguay	2017
Zambia	2018

Note: At its 50th meeting, on 17 November 2014, the Economic and Social Council postponed the election of one member from the Group of Asia-Pacific States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, both for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's forty-ninth session, in 2016; one member from the Group of Asia-Pacific States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's fiftieth session, in 2017; and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of the first meeting of the Commission's forty-ninth session, in 2015, and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-second session, in 2019 (see decision 2014/201 B).

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13-17 April 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings

I. Introduction

1. At its thirtieth session, in 1997, the Commission on Population and Development authorized its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis (E/1997/25, para. 52). The Commission subsequently stressed the importance of making available written reports on those meetings at the earliest opportunity (see Commission decision 2005/2) and requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for the annual sessions of the Commission (see Commission resolution 2006/1). In accordance with Commission resolution 2006/1, the Bureau held four meetings between September 2014 and January 2015. They were held at Headquarters on the following dates: 12 September 2014, 6 November 2014, 9 December 2014 and 13 January 2015. At its fourth meeting, the Bureau decided to hold a fifth meeting, on 10 March 2015, to address matters remaining before the resumed session of the Commission, to be held from 13 to 17 April 2015.

2. The four meetings of the Bureau were attended by the Chair, Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet (Belgium), Mr. Rubén Armando Escalante Hasbún (El Salvador), Mr. Mesbah Ansari Dogaheh (Islamic Republic of Iran), Ms. Lidija Bubanja (Serbia) and Ms. Christine Kalamwina (Zambia). In addition, Mr. Guy Rayée (Belgium) attended all four meetings. Also present at all meetings were staff of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Secretary of the Commission from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (as observers).

3. The present report provides a summary of the discussions of the Bureau at those meetings, including the conclusions reached and the recommendations made.

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II. Summary of the deliberations of the Bureau

A. Organization of work for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

4. The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the forty-eighth session and decided that on Monday, 13 April, and Tuesday, 14 April, the time slots between 11.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. would be used for presentations by keynote speakers, followed by interactive discussions. It also decided that on Wednesday, 15 April, the time slot between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. would be used for an expert panel. The Bureau reasoned that, by allocating more time for the keynote speeches and panel discussion than in previous years, the Commission would encourage a more interactive debate.

5. The Bureau also decided that informal consultations on draft proposals would begin on the Tuesday before the resumption of the session and continue daily until Friday, 10 April. The Bureau further decided that the afternoon of Tuesday, 14 April, and the entire day on Thursday, 16 April, would be dedicated exclusively to informal consultations. It therefore decided to schedule consideration of agenda item 6, "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population", for the morning of Friday, 17 April.

B. Keynote speakers

6. In its decision 2005/2, the Commission welcomed the format of inviting keynote speakers to address the sessions of the Commission and requested the Bureau to make the arrangements necessary for their participation and to inform States members of the Commission accordingly. Pursuant to that decision, the Bureau decided that two individuals would be invited to address the Commission during the designated times slots on Monday, 13 April, and Tuesday, 14 April, speaking on topics relating to the theme of the forty-eighth session, "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda". The Bureau also decided to organize an expert panel of four speakers (with a moderator) during the designated time slot on Wednesday, 15 April, to address the topic of "Integrating population issues into sustainable development".

7. For each speaking role, the Bureau agreed on a slate of at least two candidates, ranked in order of preference, and requested the Secretariat to contact the individuals to invite them to participate. It was agreed that, should one or more of the preferred speakers be unavailable, the Secretariat would proceed through the list until an available speaker was identified and confirmed. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to accord high priority to achieving gender balance, broad regional representation and diversity of expertise in compiling the slate of speakers and panellists. In addition, the Secretariat was to keep the Bureau well informed about the process as it unfolded.

C. Participation of relevant United Nations entities in the forty-eighth session of the Commission

8. The Bureau noted that the topic of the forty-eighth session was relevant to the work of many entities of the United Nations system. It was therefore agreed that the Chair would inform all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system of the dates and theme of the session and encourage them to participate actively therein and to consider organizing side events during the session.

D. Communication of the Chair with members of the Commission

9. The Bureau requested the Chair to write to all members of the Commission to underscore the desirability of including technical experts on population issues as members of their delegations for the forty-eighth session. The Chair was also requested to inform the members of the Commission about how to gain access to preliminary versions of the documentation for the session and to explain the schedule of informal consultations.

E. Relationship between the Commission and the Economic and Social Council

10. The Bureau agreed that the President of the Economic and Social Council would make a significant contribution to the work of the Commission at its forty-eighth session and requested the Chair to invite him to launch the discussion on agenda item 5, "General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015", as had been done at previous sessions of the Commission.

F. Themes for future sessions of the Commission

11. The Bureau recalled decision 2014/101 of the Commission, by which the Commission had decided to postpone the decision on the special theme for its forty-ninth session until its forty-eighth session, in 2015. In selecting a theme, the Bureau took note of the themes that the Commission had recently covered, in addition to events and activities in other bodies of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly.

12. The Bureau recommended that "Monitoring the post-2015 development agenda: strengthening the demographic evidence base" should be the theme for its forty-ninth session. The Bureau reasoned that, by drawing the Commission's attention in 2016 to data and evidence for informed policymaking in the field of population and development, the discussions could focus on population-related topics contained in the new goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda, together with the need for pertinent data and monitoring.

G. Resolutions and decisions

13. The Bureau recommended that the Commission should consider adopting the following three decisions:

(a) To adopt "Monitoring the post-2015 development agenda: strengthening the demographic evidence base" as the theme for its forty-ninth session and to postpone the decision on the theme for its fiftieth session, in 2017, until the forty-ninth session in order to take into account the overall theme of the Economic and Social Council for 2017;

(b) To consider the Commission's methods of work at its forty-ninth session and to request the Secretariat to prepare a note on those methods as part of the documentation for that session;

(c) To adopt a draft agenda for its forty-ninth session in accordance with the previous two decisions.

14. Furthermore, after extensive discussions regarding possible options for the outcome of the forty-eighth session, the Chair announced that she would table a substantive resolution on the theme of the session. The Chair requested the Secretariat to assist in the preparation of a zero draft of the resolution, drawing on the main conclusions set out in the reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the session and also taking into account the proposal by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and other key elements of the continuing discussion on the post-2015 development agenda. She indicated that she planned to distribute the zero draft to the members of the Commission by Tuesday, 17 March.

H. Availability of documents for the Commission

15. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the forty-eighth session of the Commission in order to facilitate the preparation of statements by delegations. The Bureau endorsed the posting on the Internet of unedited, English-only versions of all Commission documents as soon as they became available, in advance of their release in the six official languages of the United Nations.

I. Briefings for member States

16. In response to an earlier request by the Bureau, a substantive briefing was held in New York on Thursday, 22 January 2015, pertaining to the state of scientific knowledge regarding some of the main substantive issues to be discussed by the Commission. A brief overview of global population trends was given and two interactive panel discussions were held, one on population dynamics, economic development and poverty and the other on population, resources, the environment and climate change. Furthermore, at the fourth meeting of the Bureau, in response to a request to organize a briefing for member States on organizational matters and logistics a few weeks ahead of the resumed session, the Secretariat indicated that that briefing had been scheduled for Thursday, 12 March.

III. Recommendations of the Bureau

17. **The Bureau recommended the adoption of the draft organization of work for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.**

18. **The Bureau decided that two keynote speakers and a panel of four experts and one moderator would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme of the forty-eighth session, "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda".**

19. **The Bureau requested the Chair to inform all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system of the dates and theme of the session and to encourage them to participate actively therein and to consider organizing side events during the session.**

20. **The Bureau requested the Chair to write to all members of the Commission to inform them of the dates of the session and to remind them of the theme, suggesting the agenda items under which interventions were welcome and underlining the desirability of having technical experts form part of their delegations. In addition, the Chair would inform the members of the Commission how to gain access to preliminary versions of the documentation for the session.**

21. **The Bureau requested the Chair to write to States not members of the Commission to inform them of the dates and theme of the session and to provide information on how to gain access to preliminary versions of the documentation for the session.**

22. **The Bureau decided to invite the Secretary-General to participate in the opening of the forty-eighth session of the Commission and to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to address the Commission under item 5 of the provisional agenda.**

23. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission should decide upon the theme for its forty-ninth session at its forty-eighth session, while postponing a decision on the theme for its fiftieth session, in 2017, until its forty-ninth session. Furthermore, the Bureau recommended "Monitoring the post-2015 development agenda: strengthening the demographic evidence base" as the special theme for its forty-ninth session.**

24. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission should decide to consider its methods of work at its forty-ninth session and request the Secretariat to prepare a note on those methods as part of the documentation for that session. Furthermore, the Bureau recommended that the Commission should adopt a decision on the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session in accordance with the decisions regarding the special theme and the methods of work.**

25. **The Bureau recommended that unedited, English-only versions of all Commission documents should be posted on the Internet as soon as they became available, in advance of their release in the six official languages of the United Nations.**

26. **The Bureau requested the Secretariat to organize a substantive briefing for States members of the Commission before the resumption of the forty-**

eighth session and another briefing focusing on the organization and logistics of the session a few weeks before the resumption. The date for the substantive briefing was set for Thursday, 22 January 2015. The briefing on organization and logistics for the forty-eighth session was scheduled for Thursday, 12 March 2015.